



CATHOLIC
LIFE & FAITH



Building Bridges to the Heart of the Community



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Our Sunday Visitor



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Our Desire

To draw people to
Christ
through our parish
communities,
leading them to
live as disciples of
Jesus Christ.



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Belonging within the community
makes a difference!



 **How? Questions We Ask**




Fourth step:
Mission!

Third step:
Being part of the community





Second step:
Making a contribution


First step:
Expectations & Needs

Source: "Growing an Engaged Church", Albert Whelan 2008

 **First step:**
Meeting Needs

"As a member of my parish, I know what is expected of me"

-  How Can We Grow?
-  Do I Belong?
-  What Do I Give?
-  What Do I Get?



Source: "Growing an Engaged Church", Albert Whelan 2008

 **Let's Focus**

What expectations are communicated to your parishioners? How?



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What, Why, How?




- 1 WHAT is a Covenant?
- 2 WHY have a Covenant?
- 3 HOW do we create a Covenant?

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What is a Covenant?




*In the Bible, the **primary way in which God has relationship with humanity** is through a covenant.*



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What Does a Covenant Entail?



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What does a Covenant entail?



† Requires:


- Agreement between two parties
- Ongoing commitment
- Focus
- Renewal

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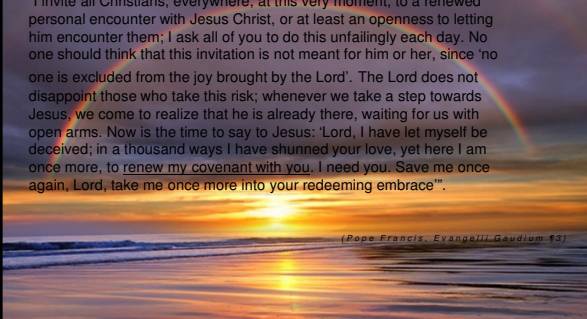
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Renewing Our Covenant



"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace'".

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #13)



 Why? 



- 1 WHAT is a Covenant?
- 2 WHY have a Covenant?
- 3 HOW do we create a Covenant?


 

WHY? A Covenant solidifies our Commitment to Live as Disciples in Community



Core Message

A Covenant clarifies Expectations...



Research shows knowing "expectations" is a key factor in building an ENGAGED community.

A Covenant strengthens the commitment around what one gets and what one gives

 Aspects of Participative Parish Culture

Value for every person as a child of God

Conviction that parish life matters

Recognition that each of us is called to full participation in the life of Christ

Share a desire to reach people with the love of God through our interactions with one another

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 Aspects of Participative Parish Culture

Commitment to invite every person to be his or her true and best self

Leaders who understand their roles as servant leaders who call people to serve based on their gifts and talents

People are sent forth desire to live as Christian disciples and stewards in their daily lives

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The Commitment
Defines what you Give, what are the expectations of people?

The Duration
Specifies the Length of Time


The Promises
Defines what people receive as part of the community

The Sign/Symbol
Logo / Image to represents your Covenant

The Parties
Who is involved in this Covenant?

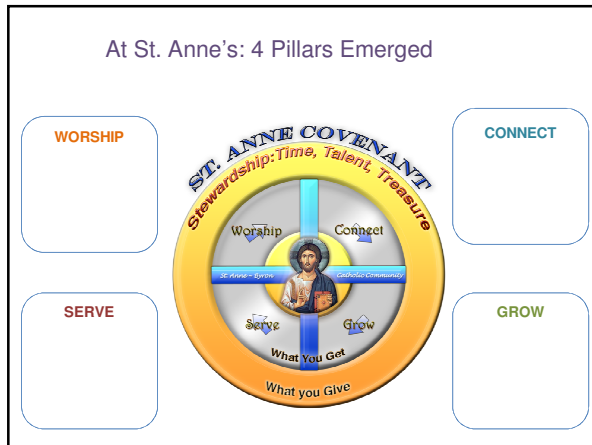
The Dedication
Ceremony – how you celebrate the covenant

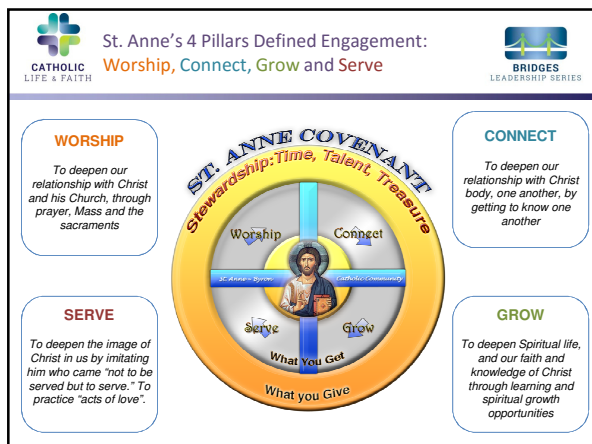
Light the Way

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"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came before everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42ff)







What St. Anne's Gives

WORSHIP

- † Daily opportunities to go to Mass
- † Reconciliation
- † Holy Week
- † Eucharistic Adoration

CONNECT

- † Community Events all throughout the year
- † Hospitality after Masses
- † Welcoming environment

SERVE

- † 23 ministries
- † 3 specific actions to help the underserved
- † Supporting St. Anne and the community financially

GROW

- † Faith Formation for Children
- † Faith Formation for Adults
- † Lenten bible series
- † Small Christian Communities

Courtesy of St. Anne Parish, Byron, CA

Expectations Were Clarified

WORSHIP

- † Attend weekly mass
- † Attend Holy Days
- † Go to reconciliation at least once a year

CONNECT

- † Welcome someone at mass who I do not know
- † Participate in hospitality after mass
- † Attend one St. Anne social function

SERVE

- † Spend 1-2 hours a week volunteering
- † Volunteer at special events
- † Look for opts to reach out to larger St. Anne Community

GROW

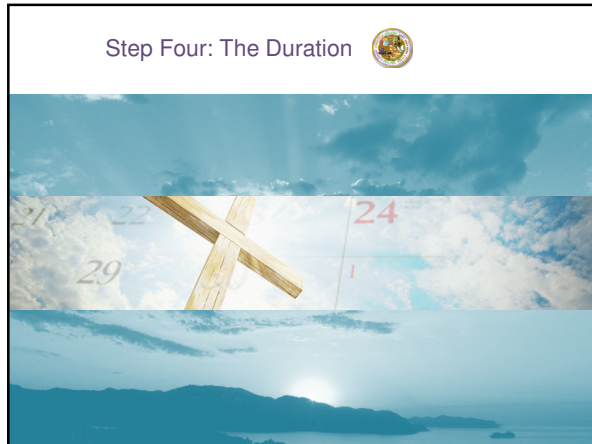
- † Attend Faith Formation
- † Attend at least one special lecture or event

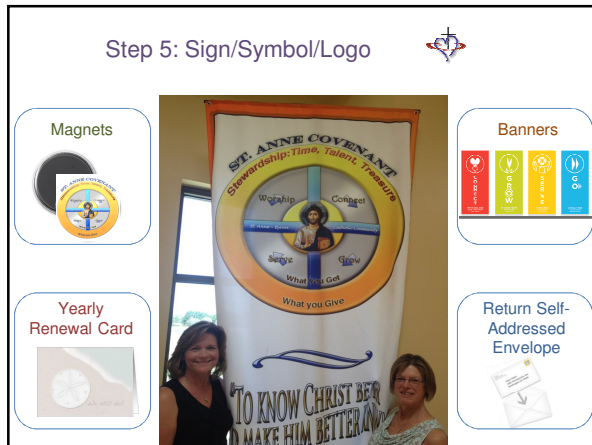
Courtesy of St. Anne Parish, Byron, CA

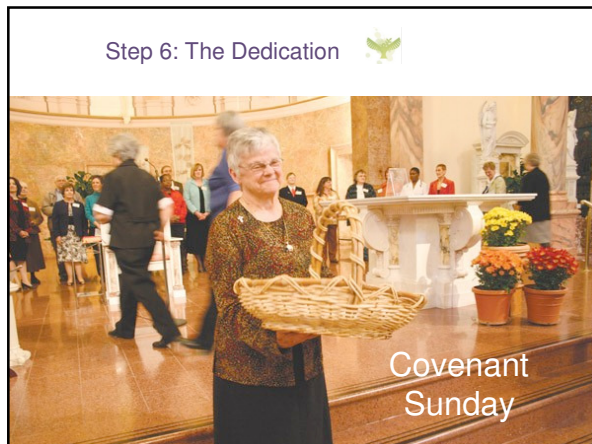
Step Three: The Commitment

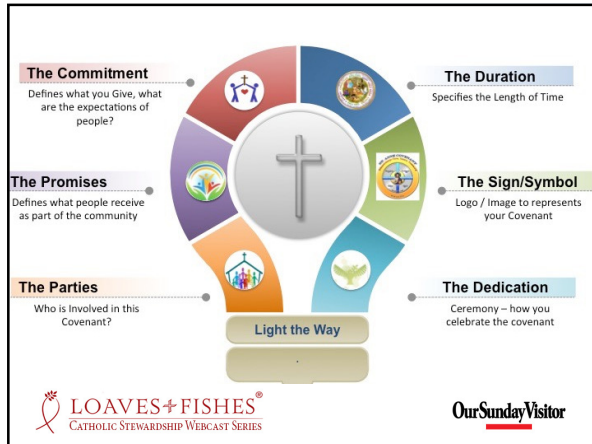
What are the expectations of your:

Leaders
Parishioners
Visitors









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Let's Focus

What are you wondering about? What questions do you have?

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Parish Culture Catalysts:
Spark Living Discipleship in Community

Worship
Spark living faith through prayer, Mass and the sacraments

Connect

Serve
Spark living faith in action

Grow

 **The Bridges Leadership Series**



www.Bridge2Faith.net

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